

AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An interactive program guide having a display screen comprising:
 - a program guide database for storing television schedule information including television program titles;
 - a display controller electrically coupled to the program guide database for displaying some of the television schedule information including television program titles on the display screen;
 - an input device that is configured to:
 - receive a first user selection of a television program title displayed on the display screen; and
 - receive a second user selection requesting that data available on a public network and related to the selected television program title be displayed;
 - a processor configured to:
 - search, over the public network, at least one information database to identify data that (1) is related to a program corresponding to the selected television program title and (2) includes at least one item available for purchase; and
 - download the data identified in the search using a communications device, wherein the data comprises search results obtained from the at least one information database; and
 - a controller for displaying, in direct response to the second user selection, the downloaded data related to the program corresponding to the selected television program title, wherein the displayed data comprises a selectable option for purchasing the at least one item available for purchase.

2. (Currently amended) The interactive program guide of claim 1 wherein the program guide database resides on one or more remote file servers accessible through a communication link.

3. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 2 wherein the communication link comprises the Internet.

4. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 1 wherein the identified data comprises an advertisement.

5. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to:

monitor and store a plurality of user selections of television programs;
learn a user preference based on the plurality of user selections of television programs; and

activate the program guide based on the user preference.

6. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 5 wherein the processor is further configured to store the user preference responsive to a user input.

7. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 5 wherein the user preference comprises a television program.

8. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 5 wherein the user preference comprises a theme for a plurality of television programs.

9. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 7 wherein the processor is further configured to remind a user to view a preferred television program.

10. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 7 wherein the processor is further configured to record a preferred television program.

11. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 7 wherein the processor is further configured to download a copy of a preferred television program to a digital storage medium.

12. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 8 wherein the processor is further configured to:

search the television schedule information;
identify television programs matching the theme for the plurality of television programs; and
record the television programs matching the theme for the plurality of television programs.

13. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 8 wherein the processor is further configured to:

search the television schedule information;
identify television programs matching the theme for the plurality of television programs; and
download a copy of the television programs matching the theme for the plurality of television programs to a digital storage medium.

14. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 5 wherein the processor is further configured to adapt the television schedule information displayed on the screen based on the user preference.

15. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 1 wherein:
the processor is further configured to:
display preview programming for a future-scheduled television

program;

identify a plurality of sources of information having data related to the future-scheduled television program;

select an identified source of information having data related to the future-scheduled television program; and

the communication device is further configured to establishing a link to the identified source of information; and

the controller is further configured to display data from the linked source of information on the screen.

16. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 15 wherein the data related to the future-scheduled television program comprises one or more of an advertisement, a video preview, and textual information.

17. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to store and display advertisement data.

18. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 1 wherein the identified data comprises one or more of television program actors, actresses, themes, other broadcast times, other broadcast sources, and associated available products.

19. (Currently amended) A method for managing and displaying information in an interactive television system having a display screen comprising:

storing television schedule information including television program titles;

displaying some of the television schedule information including television program titles on the display screen;

receiving a first user selection of a television program title displayed on the display screen;

receiving a second user selection requesting that data available on a public network and related to the selected television program title be displayed;

searching, over the public network, at least one information database to identify data that (1) is related to a program corresponding to the selected television program title and (2) includes at least one item available for purchase;

downloading the data identified in the search using a communications device, wherein the data comprises search results obtained from the at least one information database; and

displaying, in direct response to the second user selection, the downloaded data related to the program corresponding to the selected television program title, wherein the displayed data comprises a selectable option for purchasing the at least one item available for purchase.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the television schedule information is stored in a program guide database residing on one or more remote file servers accessible through a communication link.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the communication link comprises the Internet.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the identified data related to the selected television program comprises an advertisement.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising:
monitoring and storing a plurality of user selections of television programs;
learning a user preference based on the plurality of user selections of television programs; and
activating the program guide based on the user preference.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the learning the user preference comprises storing the user preference responsive to a user input.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the user preference comprises a television program.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the user preference comprises a theme for a plurality of television programs.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the activating comprises reminding a user to view a preferred television program.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the activating comprises recording a preferred television program.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the activating comprises downloading a copy of a preferred television program to a digital storage medium.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the activating step comprises:

searching the television schedule information;
identifying television programs matching the theme for the plurality of television programs; and
recording the television programs matching the theme for the plurality of television programs.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the activating comprises:

searching the television schedule information;
identifying television programs matching the theme for the plurality of television programs; and
downloading a copy of the television programs matching the theme for the plurality of television programs to a digital storage medium.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the activating comprises adapting the television schedule information displayed on the screen based on the user preference.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising:
displaying preview programming for a future-scheduled television program;
identifying a plurality of sources of information having data related to the future-scheduled television program;
selecting an identified source of information having data related to the future-scheduled television program; and
responsive to the selecting step, establishing a link to the identified source of information;
and displaying data from the linked source of information on the screen.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the data related to the future-scheduled television program comprises one or more of television program actors, actresses, themes, other broadcast times, other broadcast sources, associated available products, and promotions.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the data related to the future-scheduled television program comprises one or more of an advertisement, a video preview, and textual information.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising storing and displaying advertisement data.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the identified data comprises one or more of television program actors, actresses, themes, other broadcast times, other broadcast sources, associated available products, and promotions.

38. (Previously presented) The interactive program guide of claim 1, wherein the at least one item available for purchase is not a television program.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one item available for purchase is not a television program.

40. (New) The interactive program guide of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to search, over the public network, a plurality of information databases, wherein the plurality of information databases are accessed on at least two different sources.

41. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising searching, over the public network, a plurality of information databases, wherein the plurality of information databases are accessed on at least two different sources.